

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6645

To authorize assistance to the Republic of the Philippines for the purpose of providing benefits to certain Filipino World War II veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2008

Mr. ROHRABACHER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To authorize assistance to the Republic of the Philippines for the purpose of providing benefits to certain Filipino World War II veterans, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Filipino Veterans As-
5 sistance Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Philippine Islands were acquired by the
2 United States in 1898 and remained a possession of
3 the United States until 1946.

4 (2) On July 26, 1941, the President of the
5 United States issued an Executive order inducting
6 all military forces of the Commonwealth of the Phil-
7 ippines under the command of a newly created com-
8 mand structure called the United States Armed
9 Forces of the Far East (USAFFE).

10 (3) The Rescission Acts of 1946 stripped the
11 military forces of the Commonwealth of the Phil-
12 ippines that were under the command of USAFFE
13 from receiving certain benefits under programs ad-
14 ministered by the Veterans' Administration.

15 (4) The Organized Military Forces of the Com-
16 monwealth of the Philippines and the Philippine
17 Scouts, having served a significant role in combat
18 alongside United States Armed Forces during World
19 War II, should be granted benefits similar to those
20 given to United States veterans.

1 **SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHIL-**
2 **IPPINES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING**
3 **BENEFITS TO CERTAIN FILIPINO WORLD WAR**
4 **II VETERANS.**

5 (a) **AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE.**—The Presi-
6 dent is authorized to provide assistance to the Republic
7 of the Philippines for the purpose of providing benefits,
8 including the benefits described in subsection (b), to indi-
9 viduals who engaged in the service described in subsection
10 (c) and to certain dependents of such individuals.

11 (b) **BENEFITS DESCRIBED.**—Benefits described in
12 this subsection are the following:

13 (1) Compensation for service-connected disabil-
14 ities.

15 (2) In the case of an individual who engaged in
16 the service described in subsection (c) and died as a
17 result of such service, dependency and indemnity
18 compensation for the individual's surviving spouse,
19 children, and parents.

20 (3) Medical care.

21 (4) Education benefits.

22 (5) Education benefits for children of an indi-
23 vidual who engaged in the service described in sub-
24 section (c).

25 (6) Death pensions.

1 (c) SERVICE DESCRIBED.—Service described in this
2 subsection is service—

3 (1) before July 1, 1946, in the organized mili-
4 tary forces of the Government of the Commonwealth
5 of the Philippines, while such forces were in the
6 service of the Armed Forces of the United States
7 pursuant to the military order of the President
8 dated July 26, 1941, including among such military
9 forces organized guerrilla forces under commanders
10 appointed, designated, or subsequently recognized by
11 the Commander in Chief, Southwest Pacific Area, or
12 other competent authority in the Army of the United
13 States; or

14 (2) in the Philippine Scouts under section 14 of
15 the Armed Forces Voluntary Recruitment Act of
16 1945 (59 Stat. 538).

17 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this Act, there is au-
19 thorized to be appropriated to the President \$200,000,000
20 for fiscal year 2009.

21 (b) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES.—Amounts appro-
22 priated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations
23 under subsection (a)—

24 (1) are authorized to remain available until ex-
25 pended; and

- 1 (2) are in addition to amounts otherwise avail-
- 2 able for such purposes.

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